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In Memoriam

FREDERIC B. VANDEGRIFT

KING OF HARMONY R.A. CHAPTER NO 52.

AN ADDRESS

COMMEMORATIVE OF THE MASONIC LIFE AND SERVICES OF

FREDERIC B. VANDEGRIFT

King of Harmony R. A. Chapter, No. 52

DELIVERED AT THE REQUEST OF FRANCIS RIPKA, JR., M. E. H. P.,

BEFORE THE CHAPTER AT ITS

Stated Meeting, April 7, 1899

BY

J. HENRY WILLIAMS, P. H. P.



Harmony Chapter Mourns.

Her favored son—her King—has laid down the sceptre of his authority and entered into eternal rest.

Companion Frederic B. Vandegrift, King of Harmony R. A. Chapter, No. 52, became of age December 22, 1883. His petition for initiation into Freemasonry was presented January 7, 1884, to Bristol Lodge, No. 25, F. & A. M., in which Lodge he was made a mason March 8, 1884, by his father, P. M. C. S. Vandegrift. He was elected Junior Warden December, 1885, Senior Warden December, 1886, and W. M. December, 1888. He resigned November 2, 1895, to become a charter member of University Lodge, No. 610.

He was elected Representative to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania June 25,

1897, and held that office until his decease.

He received the degrees of Mark Master Mason, and Most Excellent Master Mason April 5, 1889, and was exalted to the Supreme Degree of Royal Arch Mason April 12, 1889, in Harmony Royal Arch Chapter, No. 52.

After having served in various subordinate positions he was, in December, 1897, elected Scribe, and in December, 1898, elected King of the Chapter, which office he held at the time of his decease.

He received the degrees of Knighthood in St. John's Commandery, No. 4, Knights Templar, in 1894, and held the office of Captain General.

He received the degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite as follows: 14° January 18, 1895, 16° and 18° May 17, 1895, and that of S. P. R. S., 32°, June 21, 1895.



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He was also a member of Lu Lu Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S.

Frederic B. Vandegrift was born December 22, 1862. He entered into rest March 7, 1899, and his remains were interred, with Masonic ceremonies, at West Laurel Hill Cemetery March 11, 1899.

Our Companion's Masonic record, though brief, is full of work well done, and creditable alike to himself and the bodies in which he held his membership.

Who is there among you who has not marked with your warm approval and commendation his earnest and forceful manner during the rendition of masonic work?

We have in this jurisdiction many, many good workers, who perform the labors allotted to them not only with strength of body, not only with complete accuracy as to the letter, but also

with spirit and marked intelligence, so that the lessons taught by the degrees, more especially those in the capitular work, are wont to make deep and lasting impressions upon the minds of the candidates.

Such rendition of work also impresses itself upon the minds of the members of our Chapter, and of the craft generally, who, listening again and again with renewed and increasing interest and pleasure to the repetition of those beautiful lessons of charity and devotion, are led more closely to the fount of all pure religion—the worship of the one true and living God.

You can and will, doubtless, bear witness to the truth of these statements, and yet withal, I personally venture the assertion, that, conceding the merit they justly deserve to all those who have gone before him in masonic work, our

departed friend and companion stood as a peer among his equals.

Companion Vandegrift's genial personality impelled our confidence, which grew as time went on, into respect, admiration and love. When noticing the ravages of disease we saw how he preserved that warm personality, and daily saw him struggling to be cheerful and happy, knowing, as he must have known, that the end was approaching when he would be handed,

"That Golden Key
That opes the palace of eternity,"

we again and again felt the courage of one who looked death in the face and smiled.

His vitality was remarkable. He endured when others would have fallen by the wayside. Who can forget his last appearance here, coming, as he did from a bed of sickness at the call of

duty, because he knew that you, M. E. H. P., could not come, to preside over this body which possessed so much of his love and affection; and here, upon this floor, how beautifully and with what expression and feeling he rendered the M. E. M. M. degree—the first time he did it, and, alas! for us, the last. He went from us that night to be forever gone in his mortal body, for within a short period of time,

“He was exhal’d; his Creator drew
His spirit, as the sun the morning dew.”

His position in the commercial and legal world was well assured. By dint of hard work, in addition to his many other labors, he had prepared himself for admission to the bar, and only this year, during the month of January, I was present in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania when he was admitted to practice in that, the highest Court of Judicature in this Commonwealth.

In all his walk in life he was esteemed and respected; and if it were permitted me to push aside the white veil of purity which led to the inner sanctuary of his home life, I could show a sublime picture of earthly happiness with a loving wife and dear children, but I must not—the theme is too sacred—we can only contemplate it in the innermost recesses of our hearts. Suffice it to say, it was but a prototype of a future life of joy and bliss beyond.

And so the mortal part of our Companion has gone from us,

“God’s finger touched him and he slept.”

Blessed thought! He has put off mortality but to put on immortality. His example remains with us, while he has crossed the portal that divides the here from the hereafter, and laying down the burden of life has entered into the joys of an eternal rest.

